

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0031] beginning on page 6, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

With continuing reference to FIGS. 11-14, the reflective material 20 is inserted into a C-shaped open cavity 36 at the front 100 of the hood [[100]] 30. The holes 28 in the reflective material 20 are placed over the headlights 32 and the reflective material 20 is pushed back toward the headlight flange 38 so that the headlights 32 protrude through the holes 28 in the reflective material 20. The installer continues to push the reflective material 20 back until the back 26 of the reflective material 20 is pressed against the headlight flange 38. Finally, the bottom portion 40 of the reflective material 20 is attached into place at the bottom 42 of the open cavity 36 at the front 100 of the hood [[100]] 30. The bottom portion 40 of the reflective material 20 can be attached to the bottom 42 of the open cavity 36 by clamping, securing with tabs, inserting the material into a slot or by any means chosen with sound engineering judgment. The reflective material 20 is able to maintain its parabolic shape 22 due to the rigidity of the material. One advantage of this method is the simplicity and ease of placing the reflective material 20 into the open cavity 36 at the front 100 of the hood 30. This process reduces manufacturing costs, which in turn can be passed on to the consumer. Yet another advantage of this process is the elimination of the deformation in the reflective material 14 previously mentioned in the prior art above and illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5. Finally, a third advantage of this method is the elimination of the parabolic shaped cavity 12 required in the front of the hood 10 thereby eliminating the need of a three-piece mold system for the injection mold process of the hood. This development leads us to the second aspect of the present invention, which is the utilization of a two-piece mold to form a complex molded component.

Please replace paragraph [0032] beginning on page 7, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The second aspect of the present invention, which is the use of a two-piece mold arrangement 50 to form a complex molded component, will now be described. As noted above, complex molded components typically require a three-piece mold arrangement due to the complexity of the component. In the present embodiment the complex molded component consists of a lawn tractor hood [[10]] 30 however, as previously mentioned, the present invention can be used for any type of complex molded component. The complexity of the lawn mower hood [[10]] 30 can best be seen from FIGS. 11-16. The hood [[10]] 30 contains a cavity 12 that extends from the front 100 of the hood [[10]] 30 to the back 101 of the hood [[10]] 30. Located near the front 100 of the hood [[10]] 30 is a C-shaped open cavity 36 as shown in FIGS. 15 and 16. Typically a three piece mold arrangement is required to obtain the C-shaped cavity 36 or parabolic shape as mentioned above. The C-shaped cavity 36 is defined by an overhang 104 located at the top 106 of the hood [[10]] 30, by an under-hang 108 located at the bottom 110 of the hood [[10]] 30, and a periphery 124 that circumvents the cavity 36. Located at the rear 112 of the C-shaped cavity 36 is the headlight flange 38 as previously mentioned. The headlight flange further consists of two side sections 114, 115 and a center section 116. The side sections 114, 115 extend further down from the top 106 of the hood [[10]] 30 than does the center section 116 as best shown in FIG. 13. The side sections 114, 115 further contain holes 34 to allow installation of the headlights 32 as previously described. As shown in FIGS. 13 and 14 the headlight flange further consists of two supports 118 to provide stability for the headlight flange 38. The supports 118 are operatively attached to the back of the headlight flange 38 and to the underneath side 120 of the top 106 of the hood [[10]] 30. Referring to FIGS. 15 and 16, the mold required to form such a complex component consists of an upper portion 52 and a lower portion 54. The upper 52 and lower portions 54 of the mold system 50 further consist of contact surfaces 56, 58 that are abutted against each other when the mold 50 is in the closed position as illustrated in FIG. 16. The upper portion further contains a runner 51 whereby the molten resin is injected through and into the cavity of the mold. It should be noted that the runner 51 can be in any location of the mold chosen with sound engineering judgment. The lower portion 54 further consists of a top rounded portion 60. The top rounded portion 60 forms the C-shaped open cavity 36 near the front 100 of the hood 30. This can best be seen in FIG. 16 where the front 62 of the top round portion 60 is visible when the mold 50 is in the closed position. The

top round portion 60 of the lower portion 54 further contains slots 53. The slots 53 extend vertically downward and allow the formation of the headlight flange 38, the headlight holes 34, and the supports 118. The headlight flange 38 is shown in FIGS. 11 and 13.